

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 14, 2007

**Congressional Staff Briefing on  
China's Space Program:  
Where are they now and where are they headed?  
Friday, June 22  
11:00am  
2212 Rayburn House Office Building**

Dear Colleague,

The United States continues to be the preeminent space-faring country throughout the world, a fact for which we can be proud. Investments in the space program and NASA over nearly five decades have fueled our nation's technological innovation and significantly contributed to our national and economic security. So, it is no wonder that other nations seek to promote and advance their own space programs and reap the benefits and rewards that space provides.

*America's lead in space cannot be taken for granted, however.* We cannot sit still, for doing so gives others the opportunity to catch -- and perhaps surpass us. In the past few years, for example, we have witnessed the rise of strong new national space programs in several nations, to include the military-dominated Chinese space program.

China has clearly demonstrated the military nature of its space efforts. Just this past January, China shocked many around the world with a provocative Anti-Satellite (ASAT) demonstration by destroying one of its own satellites. China has also shown significant progress in developing its own human spaceflight program, as two successful piloted launches have shown. (Some reports indicate that China is aiming to send humans to the Moon, possibly before the U.S. is able to return.)

In setting U.S. goals and priorities in space, we must understand the implications of ceding leadership to other nations on the frontier -- some of whom may not share our commitment to the peaceful exploration of space.

To better understand the nature and intent of China's space program, particularly their plans for missions to the Moon, we invite you and your staff to a briefing from experts on China's space program. The panel will include two renowned experts in this field, Mr. Jeff Kueter, President of the George C. Marshall Institute and Mr. Dean Cheng from the Center for Naval Analysis. The briefing is scheduled for Friday, June 22 at 11:00am in Rayburn 2212. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Chahinian in Rep. Aderholt's office (5-4876) or Bobby Zafarnia in Rep. Lampson's office (5-5951).

We hope you will be able to attend this important discussion.

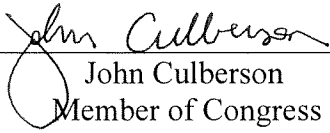
Sincerely,



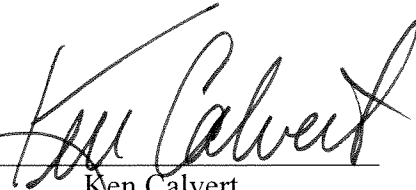
Robert Aderholt  
Member of Congress

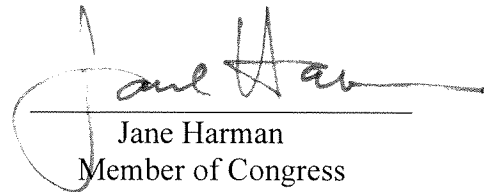


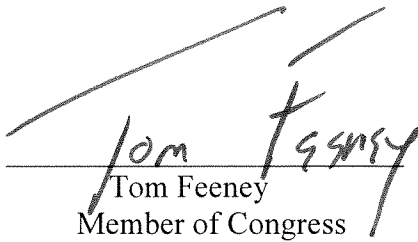
Nick Lampson  
Member of Congress

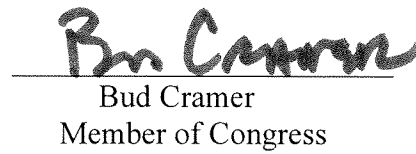
  
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Member of Congress

  
Adam Schiff  
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